

**Remarks:**

These remarks are responsive to the final Office action dated March 14, 2006. As of the filing of this Response, claims 1, 3-17, 19 and 21-25 remain pending in the application. Claims 1, 3-17, 19, and 21-25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) based on Gu et al. (US 6,892,230). Claims 19 and 25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) based on Lortz (US 6,505,243). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections for at least the reasons set forth below.

**Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) based on Gu et al. (US 6,892,230)****Claims 1 and 3-17**

Claim 1 recites a device management system including, in part, "a server configured to execute a management application", "a device", and "at least one agent/codelet pair including an agent and a codelet, wherein the device is configured to execute the codelet and the management application is configured to execute the agent...." Claims 3-17 depend from claim 1.

Gu et al. discloses a dynamic self-configuration for ad hoc peer networking using mark-up language formatted description messages. The system disclosed by Gu et al. includes a first multiple function device (102) and a second multiple function device (103), which the Examiner asserts anticipates the server and the device, respectively, of the claim 1 of the present application. Gu et al. also discloses a Service Control Protocol Declaration (SCPD), which the Examiner asserts anticipates the agent of claim 1. In the disclosure of Gu et al., a SCPD is defined as "[a] formal representation of the schema of a Service." (see, Gu et al., col. 10, lines 19-20) *The American Heritage®*

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*Dictionary of the English Language, Fourth Edition* defines a schema as "[a] diagrammatic representation; an outline or model."

As noted, claim 1 specifies that "the management application is configured to execute the agent." The specification of the present application teaches that "the term 'agent' is used to designate a program module resident on the server...." The specification further teaches that plug-in program modules "typically include one or more agents," and that "plug-in program modules typically contain executable software routines for use by management application 22." (at page 5, lines 1-6) This is in sharp contrast to the teaching of Gu et al. Gu et al. indicates a "diagrammatic representation; an outline or model." Diagrammatic representations, outlines and models are not analogous to an executable software routine. Therefore, Gu et al., fails to disclose every limitation of claim 1.

For at least this reason, the rejection of claim 1 must be withdrawn. Claims 3-17 depend from claim 1, and thus are distinguished from Gu et al. for at least the same reasons as claim 1. Accordingly, claims 3-17 are allowable over Gu et al. and the rejection of claims 3-17 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) based on Gu et al. must be withdrawn.

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**Claims 21-24**

Claim 21 recites a method for managing one or more devices connected to a computer network including, in part, "preconfiguring a device with an agent/codelet pair...." Claims 22-24 depend from claim 21.

Contrary to the Examiner's characterization, applicants assert that Gu et al. does not disclose or suggest the agent/codelet pair of claim 21. As noted above, the recited agent "contain executable software routines." Applicants suggest that the elements of Figure 8 of the Gu et al. reference are each components of the schema of the SCPD, which, as noted above, the Examiner has asserted anticipates the agent of the present claims. Such components are not executable code, as specified herein. Gu et al. thus fails to anticipate claim 21 and the rejection of claim 21 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) based on Gu et al. must be withdrawn.

Inasmuch as claims 22-24 depend from claim 21, such claims are distinguished from Gu et al. for at least the same reasons as claim 21. Accordingly, the rejection of claims 22-24 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) based on Gu et al. also must be withdrawn.

**Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) based on Lortz et al. (US 6,505,243)**

Claims 19 and 25 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) based on Lortz et al. (US 6,505,243). Lortz discloses automatic web-based detection and display of product installation and help information. As the applicants indicated in their August 16, 2005 Amendment, and in their February 1, 2006 Amendment, Lortz fails to disclose or suggest the specific features of the agent/codelet pair recited in claims 19 and 25.

**Claims 19 and 25**

Lortz teaches a configuring device retrieving "[i]nstallation, configuration and customization data for the device." See, column 5, lines 20-21. The Examiner asserts that the installation data of Lortz anticipates the agent/codelet pair of the present application. However, Lortz further teaches that "[i]nstallation data typically includes how to further connect the device to other devices..." and that "[i]nstallation data is formatted according in [sic] an interface language ... that describes required installation and configuration options for the device." See, column 5, lines 22-23, 48-51. Accordingly, the applicants assert that the installation data taught by Lortz is merely *passive* information exchanged between the configuring device and the device, in sharp contrast with the agent and codelet pair of the present application, which *actively* "communicate with each other to achieve a predetermined functionality."

Moreover, the specification of the present application, as noted above in reference to claims 1 and 21, requires that an agent "contain executable software routines." Applicants assert that the installation data of Lortz does not anticipate the agent and/or codelet of the present application. Claims 19 and 25, therefore, are allowable, and applicants request the withdrawal of the rejection of these claim under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over Lortz.

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Conclusion

Applicants believe that this application is in condition for allowance in view of the above remarks. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request that the Examiner issue a Notice of Allowability covering the pending claims. If the Examiner has any questions, or if a telephone interview would in any way advance prosecution of the application, please contact the undersigned attorney of record.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to Examiner M. Delgado, Group Art Unit 2144, Commissioner for Patents, at facsimile number (571) 273-8300 on May 15, 2006.



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Christie A. Doolittle

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